

Appln. No. 09/944,009  
Amendment dated December 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed September 10, 2004

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13 through 16, 21 through 24, and 26 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17 through 20, and 25 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

**Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action**

Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 21 through 23 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Butler et al. (USPN 3,301,101).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 10, which was indicated in the Office Action as being allowable, and therefore claim 1, as well as claims 3, 4, 7, 21, 22, 23, and 26, which depend from claim 1, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 12, which was indicated in the Office Action as being allowable, and therefore claim 11, as well as claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 11, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 21 through 23 and 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

**Paragraph 9 of the Office Action**

Claims 8, 10, 15, 16 and 24 have been allowed.


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**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By   
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